



September—October 2021

St. Jacob and St. John Summerfield News and Notes

Dear Church Family and Friends of St. John and St. Jacob,

In the last month and a half many things in my life have quickly changed. I left an old career that I worked for 15 years. I was ordained into pastoral ministry. I have started to serve your two congregations. I've sent my elder daughter, Clara, off for another year of college, and my younger, Elise, has started her last year of middle school. It has been a whirlwind of change.

I am also learning on the fly what it means to be a pastor in a church. Sure, I have my seminary education and experience as a student pastor under my belt, but even with all of that, I had never really done the day-to-day work of being a pastor. Calls from members needing to talk and seeking prayers for loved ones. Learning about the two towns and meeting people in the community. All of the little office and organizational tasks that I had never thought about. And because of the pandemic, only being able to call and send cards to some of the members who I would much rather be visiting with in person. On top of all of this, I will likely prepare more sermons and preach more times before next Easter than I have throughout my entire education. It is a big, and ongoing, adjustment.

While there has been a lot of change for me in the short term, there has also been a lot of change for all of you over the longer term.

It was just a bit more than three years ago that Pastor Gary retired, and since that time you have had Pastor Nancy serve as your interim pastor, the world has experienced a pandemic that has affected, and continues to effect, how we live and worship, and you have called me as your new settled pastor. Each of these transitions has brought about change that can be difficult and stressful as you navigate what that change will mean for your life.

But God prepares us for change. "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:18-19) As changes come, God wants us to perceive them. God wants us to look for the places where we see God and the places where we see God's people involved in making change. God wants us to learn what those changes mean for our lives, and then move forward in that "new thing" that God has done.

I hope that all of you are as excited as I am to see what "new thing" God is creating here with us at St. John's and St. Jacob.

In Christ,

Pastor Phil

Pastor Nancy's letter to St. John's and St. Jacob members

Dear Church Family and Friends of St. Johns and St. Jacob,

My heart was certainly touched by the outpouring of love and generosity on my final Sunday, Aug. 1. I loved the breakfast reception by St. Johns and the luncheon BBQ at St. Jacob. Our time together was filled with wonderful fellowship.

Each church gave me a generous parting gift and I am grateful. Be assured that these gifts will be used to enhance my retirement travel. Many thanks to the Youth for the lovely hanging plant at St. Jacob and the flowers, journal and memento box from the Sunday School at St. Johns.

Pastor Nancy

I will never forget the journey we shared for almost three years. May our memories richly bless all of us.



Pastor Nancy at her last service at St. Jacob.

Youth Group travels to Louisville on a mission trip

The St. Jacob UCC Youth Group went to Louisville, KY from June 6-11 on a mission trip. The trip was coordinated through Youth Works, a mission trip organization. Nine youth and two adults went on the trip and served in a lot of different places in Louisville; from soup kitchens to parks departments. Youth who went on the trip included Ellie and Tavey Duncan, Ethan Schmidt, Jack and Dylan Frutiger, Zac and Abby Scott, Julia Burrow and Dalton Mersinger. The two adult chaperones were Dawn and Steve Mersinger. The group stayed in a church with three other church groups from different parts of the country. Additional pictures and their experiences will be shared with the congregation on Sept 26 during Rally Day. Come out and join us.



(From left) Dylan, Zac, Ethan, Jack and Dalton.



(From left) Abby, Ellie, Dawn, Julia and Tavey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS SEPT. 12

Sunday School returns Sunday Sept. 12 and will be held weekly during the 8:45 a.m.. service.

ST. JOHN'S HOLEY SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Holey Sunday Fellowship begins after service on Sept. 12 and will be held the first Sunday of the month thereafter.

ST. JACOB SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS SEPT. 26

Sunday School will kick off Sept. 26 with Rally Day. Class will be held from 9-10 a.m. and will be in session every second and fourth Sunday. We really hope the youth of our congregation are excited to return and encourage them to invite any new friends in the community ages 3 and up to join the fun. In order to bring Sunday School back, we still need one to two teachers so we can have a rotation, as well as helpers to make this year happen. We need to figure out who we have and ages to determine if we need a confirmation class this year or next. Anyone interested in sharing their time, please call the church office at 618-644-2142; or email: stjucc@hometel.com

ST. JACOB UCC CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER

St. Jacob UCC and the Edwardsville Moose Lodge will host a family-style chicken dinner fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oct. 3, at the Moose Lodge. The event will require a total of 16 volunteers – eight people to work the first shift from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and eight people to work the second shift from 1 to 4 p.m. The Moose Lodge provides all the food, paper products, and supplies. We need to provide the support staff and desserts. Our profits are \$4 per meal and 100 percent of the desserts (donated by our generous membership.). A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthx. The desserts can be brought to Heritage Hall by 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 2. Please consider working/donating/or patronizing the fundraiser meal.

FUNDRAISER IDEAS/SUPPORT

We're going to try and have a booth and sell a food item at the Taste of St. Jacob, Oct. 22 from 6-9 p.m. We haven't decided on what that item will be yet and are looking for help and ideas. Anyone interested in helping, or with an idea of what we should offer at our booth, please contact Dawn Mersinger at 618-792-4316.

BEST CHOICE LABEL COLLECTION

The ELF's organization is collecting Best Choice labels/UPC portion (proof of purchase). There is a box on the table in the Narthx to place the labels.

HALO PROGRAM NEEDS GIFT CARD DONATIONS

Hoyelton's Healing and Loving Oneself (HALO) program is in need of gift card donations. HALO provides resources, counseling and mentoring to high-risk youth and young adults ages 11 to 25. Youth are at-risk or confirmed survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Gift cards should be in denominations of \$10 and can be from Wal-Mart or Dollar General. You may leave the gift cards in the offering plate, drop them in the basket on the table in the St. Jacob Narthx, or drop them off at the church office.

CALENDAR

Sept. 5: First Sunday of the month communion.

Sept. 6: Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 8: Every Ladies Fellowship meets, 10 a.m.

Sept. 14: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

Sept. 15: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: First Sunday of the month communion.

Oct. 3: St. Jacob UCC/Edwardsville Moose Lodge Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

Oct. 3: Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

Oct. 3: DuBois Center Fall Festival , 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Oct. 13: Every Ladies Fellowship meets, 10 a.m.

Oct. 13-16: Illinois South Conference Annual Meeting (Pastor Phil will be attending virtually)

Oct. 17: Hailee Ryann Mannle baptism following service (11:30 a.m.).

Oct. 19: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

Oct. 20: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

Oct. 22: Taste of St. Jacob, 6-9 p.m., Activity Center Grounds and Douglas Street (St. Jacob UCC is planning on staffing a booth)

ANNUAL NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING OCTOBER 3RD

As we begin to pivot away from a world too long shrouded under the grip of a pandemic, there will be those whose households were tragically impacted economically. To that end, two-thirds of the 2021 Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering will be used for advocacy, programming, and grants supporting the needs of the unhoused/homeless. One-third of gifts to the NIN offering will go to directly support the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Special offering envelopes will be included in the October 3rd bulletin.



CARD SHOWER

Pastor Phil would like to “shower” our members who are celebrating milestone birthdays, (90 years and up), or a milestone wedding anniversary, (50 years and up, in 5-year increments). The church currently does not have birth years for these special people, only the anniversary years. So, if you are in your late 80's and up, please let us know your birth year. We will let you know in advance when these milestone birthdays are taking place. The church will provide a basket on the Resource Table in Heritage Hall where you can place your cards and Pastor Phil will be happy to deliver them. You may also just mail your card if you prefer.

ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

September Dates

Rusty & Melinda Schiefer, 38 years, Sept. 3
Paul Baer, Sept. 5
Don Koenig, Sept. 6
Larry Robison, Sept. 10
Ella Boggy, Sept. 14

October Dates

John & Charissa Hill, 29 years, Oct. 24
Denise & Paul Baer, 49 years, Oct. 27
Tomas McCaw, Oct. 28

ST. JACOB BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

September Dates

John Zweck, Sept. 1
Haylee Petchulat, Sept. 3
Diane & Sam Frey, 39 years, Sept. 4
Dianne Doll, Sept. 7
Karen Schultze, Sept. 11
Carol Kynion, Sept. 14
Don Hanser, Sept. 15
Audrey Yann, Sept. 18
Cathey Frutiger, Sept. 18
Amy Zbinden Sullivan, Sept. 19
Ken & Cathy Frutiger, 48 years, Sept. 22
Richard Schmidt, Sept. 23
* Audrey & Don Yann, 45 years, Sept. 25
Dian Frey, Sept. 28
Don Yann, Sept. 29

October Dates

Marilyn Warren, Oct. 6
Kay & Paul Guse, 33 years, Oct. 8
Beth Hanser, Oct. 9
Kevin Hollis, Oct. 13
John Lowe, Oct. 13
Gail Miller, Oct. 13
Dash Zobrist, Oct. 15
Donna Lowe, Oct. 19
Onis & Carol Zweck, 48 years, Oct. 20
Kaitlin Woods, Oct. 21
Jerry Schmitt, Oct. 23
Troy Gansmann, Oct. 26
Kathy Ritter, Oct. 27

* Preceding anniversaries denotes a five-year anniversary. The people with an "*" have milestone anniversaries. It would be nice if we would remember them with cards on their special day.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Each day I sit down with the prayer list and pray for the people of our churches. You could take this same list and put it by your bedside or reading table next to your Bible. Let us pray for those in need as well as our neighbors across the world on a daily basis.

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Ella Boggy, Don Koenig

ST. JACOB PRAYER LIST

Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz,
Carol Zweck, and the family of a friend of John Zweck